To: Solid Waste Advisory Commission

From: Tammie H. Williamson, AICP, Acting Director
Solid Waste Services Department

Date: September 4, 2009

Subject: **Master Plan Scope Framework – Community Input Results**

The purpose of this memo is to provide you with the results of the community input received regarding the Integrated Solid Waste Management Master Plan (ISWMMP) Scope Framework.

Background

In July 2009, the City Council authorized staff to begin negotiations with HDR Engineering, Inc, the consulting firm selected to develop the ISWMMP. Council also requested that staff obtain community input regarding the scope of services.

During the end of July and throughout the month of August, staff met with the community to answer questions and obtain input. For members of the community who could not attend the public input meetings or commission meetings, an exercise similar to the one used during the public input meeting was provided online to allow the community to submit input via the internet. A detailed timeline of staff's public outreach effort is attached. (See Attachment A)

Results

An analysis of the comments provided revealed several recurring themes:

- **Improved Education and Outreach**, utilizing a variety of social media to engage the community as well as specific stakeholders
- **Economic Development**, including market evaluation by identifying waste generators and encouraging the development of businesses that could utilize the "wasted" materials
- **Eco-industrial parks, reuse centers, community recycling/collection facilities**, as a means of providing more opportunities throughout the community to increase diversion participation and co-locate services. This idea included household hazardous waste drop offs and community composting centers via community gardens.
- **Improved ability to compost and recycle**, generally for all Austin properties by exploring incentives as well as mandates.

A copy of the modified Scope Framework is provided for your review. (See Attachment B) The underlined portions of the document indicate the additional feedback received

from the community and helps distinguish between the original framework elements provided by staff. Should you wish to review the comments received from the community, copies are attached. (See Attachment C)

SWAC Action

At the regular SWAC Meeting on September 9, 2009, staff will seek the Commission's final recommendation regarding the modified Scope Framework. If you have any questions regarding the process, the attached information, or the action being requested, please contact:

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cc: Mayor and City Council Members
Marc A. Ott, City Manager
Robert Goode, Assistant City Manager
Environmental Board Members
Sustainable Food Policy Board Members
Resource Management Board Members

Attachment A
Integrated Solid Waste Management Master Plan
Community Input
Timeline

Week of July 13, 2009. Staff contacts various organizations
Utilizing the email list accumulated during the Zero Waste planning process, press releases, and the City's website, Staff notified the community about the upcoming ISWMMP Scope Framework Public Input meetings and goals.

July 22, 2009. ISWMMP Kick Off Meeting
The Public Works (PW) Department and Solid Waste Services (SWS) Department hosted a kick off meeting to provide the public with background regarding the City's sustainability initiatives, including Zero Waste, and how those initiatives would play a significant role in the Master Planning process. Members from the Environmental Board, Sustainable Food Policy Board, Solid Waste Advisory Commission, and Resource Management Board were sent special invitations to attend in preparation for briefings and meetings with each commission during August. The meeting was video taped and copies were provided to the commission members who could not attend.

July 30, 2009. ISWMMP Public Input Meeting
Staff from SWS and PW hosted an interactive public input meeting facilitated by Rick Blackburn with the City of Austin's Organizational Development Office. Approximately 30 participants worked in small groups of 6 to 8 people, each with different backgrounds, to discuss each scope element. At the end of the meeting, each group provided their top three issues that seemed to create the most discussion in their groups.

August 12, 2009. SWAC Regular Meeting
Staff provided a brief update on the public input meetings and next steps.

August 18, 2009. Resource Management Board
Staff provided a brief update on the public input meetings and fielded questions about Zero Waste, construction of the Materials Recovery Facility in relationship to the Master Plan, as well as a short discussion on making sure that the Master Plan discussed partnerships with other departments to harness energy from waste. Additionally, received follow up email from Commissioner Liz Cunningham with her thoughts.

August 19, 2009. Environmental Board
Staff provided a brief update on the public input meetings and fielded questions about Zero Waste, next steps, and how to submit recommendations.

August 24, 2009. Sustainable Food Policy Board
Staff participated in a panel discussion which included Jessica King (SWS), JD Porter (SWAC Commissioner), and Karly Dixon (Austin Zero Waste Alliance). Discussion focused primarily on composting and economic development.

ATTACHMENT B

INTEGRATED SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENTMASTER PLAN

MODIFIED PRELIMINARY SCOPE FRAMEWORK

*** Underlined information is a result of public input**

1. **Public Input.** HDR, with assistance from City Staff, will engage the community to determine the public's sentiment regarding its observations of existing programs/services, the need for new initiatives and/or facilities, and the willingness to pay for the new initiatives/facilities. Methods to engage the community may include:
   - □ Town Hall Meetings
   - □ Charrettes
   - □ Webinars (tutorials or info presentations in video online)
   - □ Surveys – phone, email, cells, web, flyer on carts (include regional surveys)
   - □ Twitter
   - □ Utility bill inserts and city website
   - □ Web blogs
   - □ Public event booths to collect data
   - □ Stakeholder group meetings (multi-family, landfill operators, TCEQ, SWS employees)
   - □ Focus groups (with free food)
   - □ Engage institutions, churches, schools, to utilize their websites
   - □ Follow-up survey after info is gathered
   - □ Benchmark to other processes already established
   - □ Target popular publications: Chronicle, Austin Business Journal, etc
   - □ Bi-monthly newsletters/emails with updates on status
   - □ Board and Commissions

2. **Evaluate solid waste programs affecting Austin's waste shed:**
   - □ Adequacy and competitiveness of private sector services in Austin
   - □ Services provided by the private sector and other municipalities or governmental entities within the region to determine affect on Austin's waste shed
   - □ Evaluate managed competition for provision of services/programs and/or facilities
   - □ Identify current and future needs
   - □ Examine existing tools, models, and/or case studies which foster development of partnerships
   - □ **Specific programs of interest to the public:**
     1. Hazardous waste material drop offs - increase
     2. Working with CAPCOG and Chamber of Commerce
     3. Economic Development
        - o Identify business that are using waste/recycled materials in products
        - o Analyze service providers for each category – profile and capacity
        - o Entrepreneurial network – reach out to new tech, new businesses that can re-use recycle materials – connect businesses to markets
        - o Impediments to market
     4. Eco-industrial parks
     5. E-waste collection and processing
     6. Shredded/document destruction
     7. Educational programs – what can I do at home; outreach to elementary schools;

3. **Evaluate the facilities required by the community and/or region, include location (with consideration of Comprehensive Plan), type and quantity of materials that facilities are capable of managing:**
   - □ Material Recovery Facility (MRF)
   - □ Construction and demolition waste recycling site(s)
   - □ Composting facility(ies)
   - □ Landfill and other disposal capacity requirements
   - □ Transfer station requirements
   - □ Household hazardous waste collection and facility requirements, including electronic waste collection or drop off
   - □ Commercial and industrial waste collection and disposal requirements
   - □ **Additional facilities of interest to the public include:**
     1. Reuse centers/repair centers
     2. Must be flexible to change recyclables with the market go from compost and bail and ship
     3. Eco-industrial park
     4. Community center recycling

4. **Evaluate City of Austin operational infrastructure requirements**:
   - □ Service trucks
   - □ Customer carts
   - □ Heavy equipment/vehicles, including composting equipment
   - □ Equipment maintenance, including repair and maintenance schedule
   - □ Staff offices and employee facilities
   - □ Staff and visitor parking
   - □ Fueling facilities
   - □ Transfer facilities
   - □ **Specific issues of interest to the public include:**
     1. Include rail as a transportation option
     2. Include electric vehicles and recharge stations
     3. Garbage cans that have recycling capabilities
     4. Service centers for trucks
     5. Localized, mini transfer station
     6. Individual receptacles – provided to public areas
     7. Recycling centers – stores, gardens, apparel, retail
     8. Multi-family compost equipment
     9. Reduction of trash – education use of block leaders to pass the word.
     10. Billing for extra trash, will result in more money

5. **Analyze local and regional growth impact to service area**
   - □ Recommend size and type of facilities
   - □ Recommend size, quantity, and type of equipment needed
   - □ Direction of growth
   - □ **Specific issues of interest to the public include:**
     1. Anticipate coming markets and how they affect landfills
     2. Problem with no control of regional waste; need CAPCOG/state involvement

6. **In coordination with the Climate Protection Program, evaluate the Department's carbon footprint and analyze how proposed changes will impact**:
   - □ Air quality
   - □ Fuel costs
   - □ Equipment costs
   - □ Traffic congestion
   - □ Ozone non-attainment status/program

- □ Water and soil quality
- □ Economic benefits
- □ **Specific issues of interest to the public include:**
    1. Curbside compost must be picked up weekly but will create more traffic/transportation/man power/fuel costs
    2. Parking
    3. Biodiesel
    4. Anaerobic digester
    5. Working at home
    6. Employee health and wellness
    7. If there is a projected increase in carbon footprint
    8. Control fuel costs and maintenance
    9. MRF Needed

7. Evaluate private sector and other governmental entities current and emerging or planned services/programs

- □ Recommend public/private partnerships, partnerships with other governmental entities in the region, and/or direct City service provision
    - Institutions and non-profit entities
    - Solid Waste Management District

- □ Recommend cost-effective methods of incentivizing or requiring the adoption of Zero Waste goals by private sector services, or other governmental entities
    - Gold star process – rating system
    - Funding options for non-profits and start-ups
    - Extended Producer Responsibility

- □ Evaluate and recommend reclaimed and recycled materials market for:
    - Establishment and growth of local businesses
    - Materials used for manufacturing new products
    - Methods to promote use in construction
    - Compost and mulch
    - New technologies to enhance use of recyclables
    - Food Industry packaging

8. Sustainable Design

- □ Incorporate the United States Green Building Council's (USGBC) Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) for all proposed facilities by Council Resolutions.
- □ LEED communities
- □ City of Austin Green Building and Austin Green Building Council
- □ Address Neighborhood Association Policies – encourage them to amend to allow sustainable practices

Attachment C

Community input from:

- Public Meetings (page C.1)
- Online Exercise (page C.5)
- Emails/Letters (page C.28)

PUBLIC MEETINGS RESPONSES:

(transcribed from discussion and forms submitted after the public input meeting)

Top 3 Issues that presented the most discussion:

Improve Education and Public Awareness

- Think little – what can I do in my home
- Use block leaders
- Engage local institutions and nonprofits
- First Thursday, other local festivals with booths
- Couple ideas together – reusable bags with Zero Waste concept. Imbed it in their consciousness
- Twitter and web blogs
- New avenues for education efforts – Malcomb Gladwell's book "Tipping Point"
- Who do we include and how?
- Bring on construction industry (public projects and private projects) re education – get them on board
- City should advertise where these programs/services are

Economic Development

- Leading by example – purchasing
- Developing local end use materials (construction, reusable materials)
- Lower the cost to the city
- Economic Development as a driver and to help support markets
    - Where are the markets?
    - What makes a good product for those markets?
    - Where have the markets been for the last 20 years?
    - Where can we make the most out of those markets?
    - End use markets
- Problem with waste shed, create a market
- Develop local markets and programs to create a more close looped system
- Incentivizing or legislating compliance
- Stop domination by one or a few large waste service companies and allow several local companies create long-term sustainable jobs and keep the profits in our region.
- Zero Waste Job creation

Facilities

- Flexibility in facilities required by the community
- Diversion/collection balancing
- Community centers – gardens, off the curb and into the bin, transfer stations
- Eco industrial parks that fill the gap for the materials that we are not able to recycle.
- Composting facilities, consider making community drop off facilities too
- Sensitivity as to location of drop off facilities, consider co-location of facilities
- Create a MRF in our region and STOP sending recycled materials to the MRF in Garland

- Reuse/Resell Centers for drop off for others to use materials,
    - Transfer station – more traffic existing now than previously…
    - Tie drop off points to community centers that also have reuse, repair, composting, and resale centers.
    - Consider how commercial reuse/resale options should be considered also engage retail stores also, Hobby Lobby, Pier One, Pottery Barn.

Composting programs

- Household collection of compostable material for use in manufacturing compost used in our region

Regional Coordination

- Control the waste shed somehow
- Making this a regional issue and maintaining control over the way it is managed
- There are other communities that contribute

Other

- SWS should embrace turf issue with various city departments and utilize opportunity to get all city departments on board to get their participation Example – street sweepers in PW and SWS
- Evaluating the carbon footprint in terms of decisions to be made in the Master Plan
- Difficulty and what to consider to add/delete programs – meet result of the program on the zero waste versus carbon footprint
- Hard to evaluate success of the end goal
- Success of input is data that has a low error of margin. Testing feasibility of the data we got and how it would affect the master plan.

General Comments:

None of the categories of questions were appropriate to submit the following recommendation. Propose a LAW that would BAN the USE of STYROFOAM FOOD CONTAINERS at RESTAURANTS and CAFEs! The City of Oakland did this two years ago and it had a dramatic effect on waste! Styrofoam NEVER breaks down in a landfill. There are plenty of alternatives that are compostable and/or made from natural substances instead of petroleum derivatives that also leach into food when hot food is placed in styrofoam containers. It is an environmental AND health problem. If a city the size of Oakland can do this, so can Austin. Restaurants were allowed to use up what they had in inventory and then simply ordered other paper or natural products to replace them. No one minded and it was implemented quickly and easily. This is a no brainer! A small ordinance with a huge impact. Lets do it!

Healthy lifestyles and care as a corner-stone for prevention of waste/refuse issues... 'LESS IS MORE' Composting toilets, solar hot water, mobile/ on-site pv electric and other portable or track-able power utilization. Finally, A 'pack-it-in, pack-it-out' mentality, for our day-to-day [just as is the national slogan for our parks and natural areas].

I work at a high-tech company in Austin that uses Allied as its waste/recycling vendor. That vendor doesn't accept most of what City of Austin does. Why wouldn't a company just use the city's services? We have so many recyclables going into the trash because of this. Is it cost? Can you be competitive with the private sector waste companies?

Add to the scope reviewing the city's procurement policies and practices to identify opportunities to reduce waste and other impacts because they are, for example, more durable, repairable, recyclable, returnable, etc. In addition, identify opportunities for producer responsibility requirements, that is, returning products to vendors at the end of their lives.

Austin's a place where people want to be. Don't be afraid about stipulations and imposing fines for not complying.

“A very strong economic development component should be a vital part of any plan designed to result in a sustainable Zero Waste Program

A thorough analysis of how a Solid Waste Management District could contribute to a sustainable zero waste program should be part of the Master Plan’s research and analysis process.

Producer take back/responsibility should be stressed as a component of the Master Plan. Also include design for recycling

Some waste is waste – if you see it as a resource, then is it a good thing to keep it away if it is job producing? Can we turn it and flip it to make it more of a positive and not just a negative.

Cheaper to landfill – but is it? Can City evaluate giving tax incentives to companies that reuse/repair or donate to nonprofit?

Other suggestions/thoughts:

- Data Driven:
    - Benchmark with other cities
    - Statistical comparisons
- Legislation/EPR
    - EPR is important – helps encourage redesign for more responsible products
    - How do you break cycle of cost to repair versus new product?
    - What do we do on a state level?
    - Banning/taxing plastic bags, bottled water, styrofoam
- Success = Business guide – is the evaluation of local resources and service providers going to be available…scoring mechanism?
- Go back to master plan from the 80’s

ONLINE EXERCISE

Top 3 Issues of Concern from ONLINE Exercise (categorized)

Education

- Screen documentary "Garbage Dreams" as a kick-off event to get people engaged and thinking about waste in a different light
- Begin each public event/survey with explanation about consequences of doing nothing - build a sense of urgency
- Engage AISD and other major governmental/commercial users upfront; their buy-in and support is key
- Encourage new ways to use recycled materials that can be adopted. Change the paradigm of Waste. Challenge schools & universities to explore.
- Waste reduction recycling options pollution avoidance
- Re-thinking of food scraps as liquid organic resource vs. solid waste

Facilities and Services (Recycling and Composting)

- Consider decentralized and small-scale waste management systems as an alternative to the current centralized operations that tend to separate people from the knowledge and impact of our existing waste flows
- Recycling is not available in my neighborhood (78744)
- Styrofoam waste stream -- potential for recycling, construction materials, or ban.
- Recycling services for bars, restaurants, construction sites, and public spaces (e.g. parks, bus stops, downtown streets).
- Neighborhood composting and use of the collected materials.
- Post athletic, convention, entertainment, and restaurant/eating/drinking/dining events.
- Compostable waste bins. Incentivizing food and waste recovery programs, like mine. I'd love to get paid for helping divert the tons of waste I do. Major sorting efforts at the landfill so that only real trash gets buried.

Economic Development

- Increase in private sector costs
- Small business support - for both the businesses that manage and recycle materials, as well as the ones that produce it.
- Consider how existing zoning regulations and permitting can create barriers to novel businesses (i.e. composting). Propose new "use classifications" and zoning ordinances which can support local business initiatives
- Use local businesses! They are more likely to respond to local needs and can generate their own innovated response due to being familiar with regional concerns. Do sell us out to big corporate waste management specialist. Lets do something new.
- Current wild cat dumping must be curbed. Recycling not only makes sense but can be marketed as a growth industry regionally.
- Waste/ resource coupling

Other

- Monitored/benchmarked credible economic, social and environmental results/progress, based on Life Cycle Thinking, such as Life cycle costing and life cycle assessment
- Personal food and product packaging in public, home, and work place
- Business residual materials, bi-product, & packaging
- Compost life-cycle analysis land
- Incentives/fines for not participating. Making sure landfill waste actually gets to decompose. Innovative and new ideas that can help the program pay for itself.
- Controlling plastic bags & bottles, product packaging, waste generated by transients & homeless

ONLINE RESPONSES TO EACH SCOPE ELEMENT

Task 1.
Public Input will determine sentiment regarding programs/services, new initiatives and/or facilities and the willingness to pay for these. Options include Town Hall Meetings, Charrettes, Webinars and Surveys. Is anything missing from the task list?

1. I would include surveying people from the multi-county region. To accomplish this I would survey them at public buildings, grocery stores, parks and other public places. This will guarantee that your results won't be skewed. I would also have a third party word the survey questions in such a way as to create no bias. Include Envision Central Texas and other entities and organizations in your input.

2. Framing is important for engaging citizens in a dialog on this. Rather than merely framing it as "we are ready to listen to your ideas" the SW services team could take a more proactive approach of marketing exciting opportunities for Austin to attain an international reputation as leader in innovation an community-led participation is achieving positive financial, educational and environmental outcome from its waste program. Engage with Keep Austin Beautiful, suggest a "Cleanest Creek" competition between schools and neighborhoods centered on trash cleanups of creeks riparian spaces, award prizes for Most Improved Creek over a series of annual cleanup efforts

3. Including actual Solid Waste employees and staff in meetings as to offer an insight into the inner-workings of Solid Waste Services.

4. What you are basically doing is trying to determine the customers' needs. These types of activities only get the most involved people. Low participation and fractional return on surveys give a jilted view of public perception. More valuable is to integrate

feedback into the service. So when you are educating businesses on greening their business, include a feedback session.

5. All events and surveys should include an introduction that makes clear the urgency of sustainable waste management and the consequences of doing nothing. The public good, rather than individual citizens' expressed willingness to pay or not pay, should drive our overall environmental policies. Host city-sponsored screenings of the award-winning documentary "Garbage Dreams" by Mai Iskander. It's an excellent way to get people to think about waste/recycling in a whole different way. For contact info, see http://www.imdb.com/title/tt1049415/

6. Inclusion of the business community, perhaps through the AIBA and Austin Chambers

7. Bimonthly email/newsletter on the latest developments, with as much transparency in the process as possible

8. TV spots, including public service announcements, highlights and advertising requests. (PSAs)

9. Why is there no options to be on the team that is drafting the master plan, say two chairs for public representation?

10. Specialized observation, combined with cognitive skills and an ability to assess reality across existing behavior patterns /needs

11. Notification of these events is the single factor that makes this process successful. It would be great if the city had an email list to get out to neighborhoods, HOA's and others that are not being reached.

12. People support what they help create. A very effective technique I've seen work in various organizations is using the "world cafe" format. The idea is a cross between a town hall meeting (the right length but not engaging enough) and a charrette (very engaging but too long). So in an hour or two, you would present a problem statement and break everyone up into smaller, cross-functional groups to discuss solutions. You will get some good new ideas, but more importantly this tends to breed consensus and a feeling that everyone had a hand in developing the solution. Participants then share their experience with friends, family, co-workers, broadening the support for the plan because those people have a relationship with the participant, whereas few people have relationships with the standard people involved in efforts like this (activists, city planners, etc).

13. Phone surveys. Including an insert in the Austin Energy bill. If they do an electronic bill, is there some way for them to still get the information? TV and radio commercials/PSAs.

14. Please add: -continuing input from COA Boards & Commissions - like Sustainable Food Policy -consider asking key Boards to designate a liaison person to Z-Waste - add non-profit Garden/Farm Support Groups - these are the big customers for compost -Austin Permaculture Guild - Dick Pierce

15. Can the surveys be mailed with the electric bill? Would this save some expense?

16. Soliciting from industry ideas re best practices, emerging technologies, etc.

17. I don't see the task list so here is what it should include: - control use of plastic bags used in businesses (grocery, etc). Require a charge for the use of each bag and use the money for recycling plastic bags, cleaning our city, etc. - control use of plastic drink bottles. Tax them, require bottle deposit or ban them from the city. If the state won't act on this the city should. - manage waste created by transients & homeless. These folks leave trash all over town - require businesses to minimize and/or recycle product packaging. It winds up in the trash can. For instance, if I purchase an appliance require the business to unpack it and recycle the package. Most of it is required for protection during shipping.

Task 1. If these tasks are accomplished, what does success look like to you?

1. A clear view of public opinion and organizations on the matter of solid waste planning.

2. High counts of citizens who participate at various levels, relative to total population and relative to past public input efforts by SW services, and compared to other cities with high reputations for this. Energetic participation by many community members in helping the city with publicity about an exciting vision of leadership in a community-led program

3. A well rounded, multi-tiered, inclusive representation of interested parties coming together to make and provide better services for Austin's citizens.

4. Zero Waste

5. Participation from a broad range of people, not just solid waste nerds and environmentalists. Businesses and households understand the value to them for participating in the Zero Waste plan.

6. City of Austin residents will be aware of the process. I have only heard about this trough the Austin Eco-newsletter. How do people who haven't subscribed to this learned about it and participated?

7. Austin has strong community buy-in for the most sustainable recycling/solid waste practices and plan for the future.

8. Plan for recycling in public spaces (e.g., parks, downtown streets), restaurants/bars, and construction sites. Composting plan for households, businesses, and city. Energy recapture plan at waste facilities Recycling/sale/use of bio-solids.

9. Success would be a transparent, decision-making process where those who want can voice their ideas, and the city would explain the reasoning for the resulting decisions

10. A localized program that supports LOCAL needs, and facilitates rather than inhibits participation. Akin to the single stream recycling program.

11. Solution to wild cat dumping in our neighborhoods and rural areas.

12. That all concerns are addressed in a fair and comprehensive way.

13. Actual change and even an evolution in citizen/resident/business behavior concerning resources, consumption patterns, and energy integration

14. Buy in from the community to embrace the goals of the program.

15. Everyday citizens (not just the same activists) feel like they have an easy way to have a hand in solving our community's problems, and citizens feel like they helped to develop the solutions.

16. Public input received from a diverse swath of Austin - geographic, socio-economic, and business/special interest (developers, environmentalists, non-profits, etc.)

17. Balanced input/perspective; new voices, new eyes. Solid waste folks have done a great job with Zero waste, need to expose to and be exposed to other new voices/views. Need to get small business, small farm, gardener, citizen input and involvement

18. Success means that the public voice is not just heard and reported, but included in the plan. As well, success means many attempts and varying avenues for participation, and allowing people to participate as the scope of work continues (i.e., not just once in the beginning).

19. Consensus

20. Shift in consumer/resident behavior - shift in purchasing habits, consumption patterns, reuse/recycling habits, etc.

21. Lower cost for waste management - more recycling - cleaner city

22. Participation from a wide range of people has been documented - including homeowners, businesses, waste facilities, schools - and there is some high-level understanding/summarization of what was discussed or is desired by those people.

Task 2.
Evaluate service effects on waste shed: Study waste shed effects of private sector, municipal or other government services, managed competition for services/facilities, current/future needs, existing tools, models and case studies. Is anything missing?

1. Success depends on making the study dependent on the region.

2. Work with Chamber of Commerce to get examples of Best Opportunities in Waste Business comparing regions/waste sheds across the country. Add more performance criteria to contracts, to keep incumbent contractors on their toes. Allow more diversity of different service providers in the region - active seek to avoid domination of market share by any one business.

3. This question is vague. Which factors are you evaluating the effects of?

4. In particular, Austin should evaluate the effect of the current lack of recycling services to AISD, multi-family residences, and other large private or governmental users not currently served by the City. We cannot have a serious solid waste/recycling plan if it continues to be limited to single-family residences. It is particularly critical that AISD be involved; schools generate an astounding amount of trash each day, much of which could be recycled. It's also important that students develop good recycling habits early.

5. Potential for recapture and reuse of waste stream.

6. Consider the extent to which wastes are managed by the existing waste management companies, and the potential that each company may or may not support the goals of Zero Waste.

7. Yeah. This is already done. What is needed here, rather, is an implementation by competency to effectively ignite pleasant interaction which stimulates behavior in new, more meaningful directions

8. We seem to have lots of information within the staff, I would suggest a report from the department that covers all these items should be the backbone of the program. Private consulting reports should be used once you identify the gaps in the process, not the other way around.

9. We should also evaluate ourselves compared to other communities that are well-known for world-class waste programs

10. Not sure what "waste shed" is, so this seems to sound good

11. Be sure to show clearly and provide balanced emphasis on small, new, entrepreneurial, local businesses to be part of the network of providing waste services, and compost products. Be sure that small businesses can participate in organic pick up and composting of their wastes.

12. Re-think integration opportunities between solid waste and other sectors/departments - including, but not limited to, transportation, parks, buildings, wastewater/biosolids.

Task 2. If these tasks are accomplished, what does success look like to you?

1. Economies of scale create success (regional). Look at places that currently do it well and imitate

2. Large number of different waste service businesses, employing local people, who profitably serve the Austin waste servicing needs. No (zero) businesses taking profits out of the Austin region, or taking jobs to places like the Garland MRF.

3. Zero Waste

4. Understanding of the make-up of our waste stream and a clear choice for non-disposal options

5. A comprehensive and digestible report should be disclosed to the public and should be used in future planning processes

6. All AISD schools have full access to COA recycling services. Large governmental and private commercial and residential users are required to recycle, whether through the COA or a private vendor

7. Business development in waste recapture and sale. Inclusion of recycled materials in new construction

8. A clear understanding of the types and quantities of material flows, who is managing these material flows, how these flows will need to change to achieve Zero Waste, and whether the existing businesses are prepared to support this goal.

9. Comprehensive report, executive summary and proposed solutions.

10. (A) Everyone will be on the same page in remarks/knowledge of where or what happens to recyclables and when. (B) No hazardous or other directed materials will be misplaced nor mismanaged. Ex: no bottles nor lighters, nor batteries will be in streets, watersheds, parking lots nor casually in with regular recycling or trash. (C) Compostable/food refuse will be recognized as its own program. A Key Ex: people

will develop a sense of responsibility to not order food with the habit of not finishing it. This will also play into healthier lifestyles (D) Way better improvements in purchasing protocols by a raising awareness of responsible material handling, which in turn effect profits

11. Incentivize food and compostable recovery programs in the city. I volunteer my time to manage an organic waste recovery at Wheatsville Food COOP. I feed twenty families and make 12 cu. yards compost a year.

12. Good solid data, recommendations from staff regarding impacts and realistic timelines to implementation. Public meetings will always focus on the cost of the program

13. Obviously you need the baseline data first, but recommendations need to come soon afterward because the data is constantly changing and may be old and not a common practice by the time recommendations are made. Success is a good and thorough set of baseline data used to make informed recommendations.

14. Involve small business in definition, service delivery, and as customers. Balance with big/traditional guys - stress/involve mbe/wbe businesses

15. Plan able to be implemented

16. More fully integrated approach, vs. existing "silo" approach that regards solid waste in isolation/vacuum

Task 3.
Evaluate facilities: Material Recovery Facility, construction/demolition recycling, composting, landfill/other disposal capacity requirements, transfer station, household hazardous waste, commercial/industrial waste collection. Is anything missing?

1. Try to make it easy to recycle and hard not to. Provide access to curbside recycling to everyone in the region, not just municipalities. Manage recycling regionally. Keep regional control through well written contracts. We don't want stuff trucked in from across the state. Also be thoughtful where you locate these facilities because of populations densities, desired development zones and road capacities.

2. Evaluate the effectiveness of these facilities by surveying citizens in every sector to see how much awareness exists on how to access each service. It is no using having specialized facilities if people generating the waste are unaware of them.

3. Still a vague and meaningless question. Are y'all even looking for meaningful input? What about these facilities are you evaluating? Efficiency? We definitely need to do

a cost comparison of waste that is transported out of the city and finding ways to recycle that waste locally.

4. Also evaluate energy/fuel required to transport waste/recyclables to each facility. Our current practice of trucking recycling to a distant jurisdiction is not sustainable.

5. Neighborhood collection facilities (e.g., compost or recycling) Styrofoam recycling

6. List seems good, presuming that the evaluation covers both the location of the facilities as well as the type and quantity of materials that they can handle.

7. By material recovery facility - do you include waste stream treatment and drying beds?

8. It is not that facilities are missing, it is about what service they are delivering and what environmental standards they will be using

9. yes, this ought be stressed as an ongoing core duty, like sweeping or washing the floor after a day or week of business

10. Downtown recycling is often overlooked and has huge impacts

11. Household electronics waste (may be covered under household hazardous waste, but just in case...). Is there some type of facility where non-hazardous waste can be burnt (so it takes up less landfill space) but the smoke is captured so it's not released in to the environment? Perhaps the ash can be used in composting and/or making potash fertilizer. Is waste decomposing at landfills? If not, why not have more smaller landfills instead of one giant one where new waste is continually being added and old waste does not have time to decompose?

12. Major need/opportunity is for local/ neighborhood composting sites - as a priority. Having these early on, perhaps in concert with community gardens, recreation/education centers, is very important for jobs, compost close to garden/home, for education in neighborhoods, and to have waste be "In sight, In mind" (versus out of sight, out of...) -explore synergy between small business (collecting and local processing) and big haulers/processors - neighborhood centers for consolidation; big haulers for transport to big facilities as needed. Do as much locally/visibly as possibly

13. Integration of wastewater management system for management of liquid organics (e.g., food scraps) for production of fertilizer products (Dillo-dirt) and renewable energy

14. Maybe transportation systems? How waste moves between facilities? Oh, that may be addressed in question 7).

15. Bars and nightclubs have a very large amount of glass bottles go in the dumpster. can we help them recycle?

Task 3. If these tasks are accomplished, what does success look like to you?

1. No need for new landfills because life of existing ones is extended. New green job opportunities in the region because we don't ship recycling off to far away places

2. Success depends on using a MRF in OUR region. The current contract is a FAILURE. Downstream destination of recycled materials must be regularly monitored to ensure no material is exported to poor countries, but constructively used near our region

3. Zero Waste

4. I hate this question and it looks like you're going to ask it over and over again. This question should be phrased differently. I don't really have enough information about these "evaluations" to be able to discern what success would be

5. Austin recycles the maximum amount of waste possible for the lowest possible expenditure of energy/fuel

6. Neighborhood level facilities for some collection (e.g. wood, compost, paper, styrofoam). Processing plant for styrofoam to be used in construction materials. (or, if not viable, a ban on styrofoam in COA).

7. An understanding of the existing built environment that manages our existing waste, as well as recognition of what types and sizes of facilities need to be located in which regions to support improved material recycling. Success should recognize that determining the desired scale for facilities is not only dependent on the economies of scale of the business, but should also support local communities. That is to say that environmental and social values are often neglected for the sake of economics

8. Environmental and engineering reports on the permits required, specify types of facilities and description of their process, use and the waste stream they address

9. That all facilities have to provide proof to outperform or at least equal the current standards, for any permitting step, based on credible criteria and documentation, preferably externally reviewed and including metrics such as impact on global warming and recovery % of waste into product

10. Employees will sense better health, as the work environment shifts to one of responsibility and concern for the human condition

11. Landfills should be waste sorting fields. All organic matter should be composted and put back on trees and shrubs. Nothing that can be reused, recycled or composted should be buried.

12. No new landfills.

13. We would have a city composting program and more drop-off points for hazardous waste.

14. More waste is being re-used or recycled or allowed to decompose. New ways of selling waste are utilized to pay for more facilities/staff/ways of managing waste.

15. Synergy, coverage, jobs, careers, new businesses - as close to home as possible - "In sight, In Mind"

16. Plan able to be implemented

17. Understanding of current and potential future capacity for handling the waste stream, and what might need to be expanded.

Task 4.
Evaluate operational infrastructure requirements: Service trucks, customer carts, heavy equipment/vehicles, equipment maintenance, Staff/visitor parking and staff, fueling and transfer facilities. Is anything missing from the list of tasks?

1. Offer better infrastructure to multi-family residential complexes: offer separate single-stream recycling pickup for each apartment or condo unit, because collective bins are too often just loaded up with trash. Have trucks fueled by waste cooking oil collected from the region, and advertise that fact.

2. Again....vague. Need more info on the "evaluation"

3. Also evaluate energy/fuel required to transport waste/recyclables to each facility. Our current practice of trucking recycling to a distant jurisdiction is not sustainable

4. Composting equipment -- similar to rainwater barrels.

5. Consider the economic and social differences between large centralized operations, and decentralized infrastructure.

6. Include repair/replacement schedules and cost to the taxpayers.

7. Cross Dept./ Cross sector unity.

8. Household electronic waste can be picked up by Curbside Service. But if you live in an apartment, you don't have that option that I'm aware of. So either start doing that or else educate the public (apartment managers) about the option.

9. Community gardens, especially gardens on city land to have compost centers as integral or adjunct facilities - plus as much consolidation of other recyclables as possible/appropriate. For example look at composting capability of Sunshine Gardens - 45th and Lamar - compost small and chipped waste, consolidate big/un-chipped for trip to big processing place (TDS?) -visit/evaluate City of Farmers Branch near Dallas for commercial pick-up/processing of compostables. -the degree of decentralization and degree of involvement of local neighborhoods and small local organizations/businesses in using and providing the services

10. Hours of operation?

Task 4. If these tasks are accomplished, what does success look like to you?

1. Compare infrastructure capital and maintenance plan against Best Practice examples to ensure Austin is not lagging

2. zero waste

3. Useful and meaningful analysis is appropriately reported

4. Austin recycles the maximum amount of waste possible for the lowest possible expenditure of energy/fuel

5. Reduction in fleet carbon emissions. Plug-ins, electric vehicles.

6. Recognition of the value of decentralized recycling systems, and how they can be economically incorporated into the existing built environment

7. A marketable program with cost, benefit explanations

8. Just as we all promote washing ones hands in the elementary schools and the restaurant, health clinic and public work places, a general and genuine behavioral standard will begin to be realized and improved upon, as we begin to realize we are all on the same team; and mutually benefit -in health and wellbeing -by daily shared concern for our-selves and our environment.

9. Hazardous waste trucks should continuously travel the city collecting hazardous waste and fining those who are breaking the law.

10. SWS picking up items is a convenience factor that will cost more money, but will divert items that should not be going in to the landfill and is thus better for the

environment. Or there are new SWS staff at the landfill to pick out the recyclabe items

11. -a waste system that starts where waste starts, informs adults and children of the waste process, problems, opportunities, involves same in solution, ends "Out of Sight, Out of Mind" and "Waste, Who Cares? It's Yucky and Smelly" (not true if done right)

12. Plan able to be implemented

Task 5.
Analyze local and regional growth impact to service area: Recommend size and type of facilities; and recommend size, quantity, and type of equipment needed. Is anything missing from the list of tasks?

1. Be thoughtful where you locate these facilities because of current or future populations densities, desired development zones and road capacities.

2. Measure waste on a per capita basis classified by volume of recycling, volume of landfill, volume of compostable material. Set waste performance standards for any new residential development. Set per capita Waste reduction goals by type of waste, and publicize progress towards those goals by neighborhood to encourage friendly rivalry

3. Consider growth of nearby regions such as San Antonio.

4. Ensure county and other relevant governmental entities are involved in analysis and recommendations for full buy-in.

5. Location of facilities -- i.e. not outside the 5-county region. Development potential around existing sites. Water and emissions impact from site selection

6. Look beyond city to extending a service in the counties at a fee that offsets city programs. Attach laws and ordinances as needed to these programs

7. Yes, A Prevention program.

8. A way to combat massive facilities, massive hauling efforts/expenses/oil is to do as much, and return as much, in the local neighborhood as possible. - make 10-100 small/local/not-very-visible centers versus a few mega centers - make waste processing an integral part of new area/site/sub-division development. New sites to follow new SSI Guidelines for on-site waste management/processing - especially compost.

Task 5. If these tasks are accomplished, what does success look like to you?

1. An even and fair placement of these facilities that shows no bias for a certain area.

2. Austn gets cleaner as it grows, and can prove it with fact-based data, attracting more businesses to the region

3. Zero Waste

4. Growth projections should match or show some correspondence to other plans - if discrepancies are found - they must be reconciled with whichever plan is incorrect

5. Central Texas has a long-term plan for sustainable waste management that is fully supported by all governmental entities within the plan area

6. Facilities minimize distance traveled from outlying area customers; low impact on property values in growth corridors; no negative impact on water or air quality.

7. A program that rivals the west coast - San Diego, Portland and Seattle solid waste programs

8. A combined effort for Central Texas, where waste utilization and improvement of soil quality are key indicators (soil quality as in percentage of carbon and water holding capacity, based on improvements from biomass waste turned into soil food, such as compost.

9. By stepping out ahead of the curve; setting up behavioral standards/ code requirements immediately to All permits, in-coming commerce / developmental activities - promotes leadership & demonstrates a working model for existing behavioral patterns to step up too.

10. There are enough facilities to handle waste and to allow it to decompose properly

11. Make the growth area/developer more and more responsible for zero waste/max re-use/re-cycle on the site

12. Not over-engineering all of the above mentioned tasks/things. Also, somewhere there needs to be allowed alternative waste management systems - composting toilets, encouraging homeowners to compost in their apartments/houses

13. Plan able to be implemented

Task 6.
In coordination with the Climate Protection Program, evaluate the Department's carbon footprint and analyze how proposed changes impact air quality, fuel

costs, equipment costs and traffic congestion. Is anything missing from the list of tasks?

1. Explore options for a new business model that REWARDS the community for reducing the volume of waste, and REWARDS the SW services department for diverting more organic material and recyclable material from landfills. One form of rewards could be carbon offsets - for avoided methane in landfill gas, and avoided emissions from waste collection trucks.

2. Long term feasibility of increased, upfront costs of trying to implement "carbon footprint" regulations without seriously affecting service to customers.

3. Economic benefit - jobs created, lower taxes (due to no need to create and maintain a landfill). Efficiencies gained by businesses due to reduction of waste at the source. Effects of reduction from methane gas in landfill (major GHG reductions). Effect on Ozone attainment plan. Lower costs for maintenance of vehicles

4. Include water quality in analysis.

5. Evaluate how programs reduce carbon footprint of customer base as well as the department itself. Evaluate cost savings resulting in recycling/composting v. landfill.

6. Water and soil qualities as well. Take the full EPA/TCEQ approach to the environment and regulations

7. Carbon footprint is a limited view on environmental performance. I helped generate evaluation methods and criteria for waste treatments and facilities in Europe based on full life cycle assessment

8. Interactive demonstration with regular folks.

9. Imported Petroleum replacement with locally produced products. Also contracts and purchase agreements that take lifecycle impacts into consideration and ideally place emphasis on these values

10. Organics are Carbon - carbon in soil is sequestered and very beneficial, not avail for oxidization to CO2 -carbon exposed to air is made into CO2, a greenhouse gas - carbon in the landfill is made into Methane - a very toxic GH-Gas -take you pick - compost or "fry" and compost as close to the garden/farm/ source as possible - so you can return it.

11. Opportunity to convert liquid organics (e.g., food scraps) into renewable energy and fertilizer products, utilizing existing wastewater treatment infrastructure

Task 6. If these tasks are accomplished, what does success look like to you?

1. Trial of a new business model. A first carbon offset project based on waste reduction data in Austin.

2. Zero Waste

3. Overall reduction in environmental footprint is linked by supportable data to the areas economic viability. People see the Zero Waste plan as an innovative economic initiative, not an extra burden on them. Public sees the savings to them in their tax bill instead of focusing on one fee

4. Department uses most sustainable practices with least impact on the environment.

5. Facilities minimize distance traveled from outlying area customers; low impact on property values in growth corridors; no negative impact on water or air quality.

6. A full analysis of how our actions both mitigate (i.e. reducing methane emissions from landfills) and contribute towards (i.e. increased transportation) GHG emissions

7. An EPA compliant waste program.

8. That from today on every new facility will deliver more and better environmental performance than today.

9. By localized and regional demonstration of better behaviors, the effect is way better communication to way more people.

10. No organic matter rotting in landfills, making methane pollution

11. Less imported products and jobs mean more of the city's funding stays locally - while reducing carbon impacts.

12. Ability to reduce carbon footprint and costs at the same time (through savings on electricity and water use, etc.).

13. -CO2, Methane, Oil for Transport, etc all way down -Carbon/compost in soil rejuvenates our tired C-Toils -more food from C-TX farms/gardens -more local, nutritious, safe food; more great exercise and relaxation, education

14. Plan able to be implemented

15. Plan determined to minimize negative impacts on other aspects of environment (climate)

Task 7.
Evaluate private sector and governmental entities current and emerging or planned services/programs. (1) Recommend public/private and regional government partnerships and/or direct City service provision. (2) Recommend cost-effective methods of incentivizing or requiring the adoption of Zero Waste goals by private sector services or other governmental entities. (3) Evaluate and recommend reclaimed/recycled materials market for establishment and growth of local businesses, materials used for manufacturing new products and methods to promote use in construction. Is anything missing from the list of tasks?

1. Explore options of Council of Government coordination of waste master plans for the region, with public participation along the lines of the Envision Central Texas model.

2. Identify funding for start-ups, and non-profits wishing to promote innovative approaches.

3. This item seems tied to previous items. Ensure that all efforts are coordinated and not working at cross purposes.

4. Inclusion of entities throughout the 5-county region. Inclusion of ISDs. Inclusion of state organizations (Capitol Complex as well as state universities).

5. Specifically look to encourage small business enterprises and nonprofit educational engagement.

6. Look at the marketing aspect of selling these services to our neighbors, and making it beneficial to all of us.

7. Get involved with the state buildings, employees and services. They are a large impact to Central Texas.

8. Look for partnerships with non-profit organizations, too. They'll be mission driven instead of profit driven.

9. Zero waste, climate plan, WWW plan are great, needed, and involve lots of dedicated people. Please include/ involve small, local, profit/non-profit businesses/support groups.

10. Look at legislation to bring this about. California has much success in this area.

11. Publicize international examples of profitable "industrial ecology" using experts from the UK and other countries. Highlight the profit advantages of firms leading the way with Zero Waste practices. Institute a Central Texas Zero Waste Industry Award.

12. In particular, Austin should evaluate the effect of the current lack of recycling services to AISD, multi-family residences, and other large private or governmental

users not currently served by the City. We cannot have a serious solid waste/recycling plan if it continues to be limited to single-family residences. It is particularly critical that AISD be involved; schools generate an astounding amount of trash each day, much of which could be recycled. It's also important that students develop good recycling habits early. Ensure county and other relevant governmental entities are involved in analysis and recommendations for full buy-in. Ensure that all these efforts are coordinated and not working at cross purposes.

13. Involvement of non-profit sector as well as business and political sectors

14. Pay specific attention to the effect that such methods will have on small businesses, and supporting programs that do not impose an undue barrier on them.

15. Task force involvement, marketing, PSAs and initiatives to keep this program in the forefront of the taxpayer and residents minds.

16. There are different ways to provide incentives. Two key ones I am used to are: - create a landfill tax; this will create a demand for other solutions that are cheaper, $100 per ton for starters. - create a reuse and recycling industry for appliances and other machines that we use (cars, fridges etc) by adding a disposal fee to the sales receipt and use that money to set up a collection and treatment industry, experiences in Europe tell us that low $ values are generally sufficient, just one or a few bucks for every appliance. This will create the money for facilities and removes all hurdles from not recycling it.

17. The capacity to recognize effective means.

18. Make it so. Time is right to move forward without asking permission.

19. Not sure what is meant by cost-effective. It needs to be cost-effective on the City's end, but fines/taxes for non-compliance need to be more than just ignoring the plan would cost, otherwise the businesses will consider it a cost of doing business and just not adopt the plan and we are back at square one.

20. Get city to be among the leaders in the US in strongly adopting the USGBC's SSI guidelines and more - now. Update AEGB's Green Building Guidelines to include SSI, Zero Waste and make much of it mandatory not just voluntary

21. I would like to see a plan which focuses on reduced the red tape of operation, reducing admin costs and staff size

22. No, assuming that private sector services includes construction activity.

23. Incentivize.

24. Study drivers in the boom-bust cycles in the recycled materials market. Develop public policy to create more long-term stability that can attract investment.

25. Identify financing and funding.

26. Look at other countries (Germany specifically) that have accomplished resource/ waste coupling

27. May want to identify possible grants, incentives or other funding sources to support the creation of local businesses that participate in these efforts.

28. Incentive structure and training on deconstruction methods that would encourage the development of such a market. Potential uses for recycled styrofoam.

29. Yes, establishment and growth of local businesses is huge!

30. Promote the responsible DEconstruction of buildings since about 40% of landfill waste is associated with construction and demolition. use habitat for humanity DEconstruction program and their east side REstore as models

31. The aspect of attracting those recycling manufacturers and industries into our region. Thus reducing the shipping and added expense of disposing of the recyclable stream.

32. Yes, The use of some of these materials to begin with. We must also consider the viability of purchasing goods/services which result in hazardous or other wise harmful bi-products or destructive resultants to our general welfare. This 'Full- cyle of life" of products/ services approach must look at the big picture and comprehend the full effects what may transpire by selection/ order of each product.

33. Manufacturing encouraged using recycled materials. Create markets for these materials with competition and incentives.

34. A business could be housed over a landfill site and they can use the biomass energy generated. The landfill would be filled at night/whenever the business is closed.

35. Big emphasis on marketing campaign -Compost vs Fertilizer for example -Organic mulch - it's value to water, soil, plants, food -the worm business - incentives - green building, rebates, taxes

Task 7. If these tasks are accomplished, what does success look like to you?

1. Regional government leadership. Citizens for all over the region participating in coordination of their local waste management plans.

2. Zero Waste

3. New businesses forming in recycling and reuse.

4. All AISD schools have full access to COA recycling services. Large governmental and private commercial and residential users are required to recycle, whether through the COA or a private vendor. And Central Texas has a long-term plan for sustainable waste management that is fully supported by all governmental entities within the plan area.

5. Shared responsibility for waste management among all cities, counties, state authorities, and ISDs in the CAPCOG service area.

6. There will be opportunities for small businesses and nonprofits to support the cities Zero Waste programs.

7. A regional waste authority or consortium that works seamlessly to provide sound environmental waste services.

8. Incentivize food and compostable recovery programs in the city. I volunteer my time to manage an organic waste recovery at Wheatsville Food COOP. I feed twenty families and make 12 cu. yards compost a year.

9. Broader impacts that may spread to other areas of the state.

10. New initiatives and innovative solutions not thought of before resulting in reduced waste going in to the landfill and more materials being re-used.

11. Plan able to be implemented

12. Everyone participating in recycling and product choices as it relates to waste.

13. Central Texas firm begin to win our Zero Waste award, and compete for similar awards internationally.

14. Businesses and private citizen's segregate waste and see it as beneficial.

15. An actual plan with creative and innovative ideas will be produced. At least one of our waste streams will be coupled with some sort of use.

16. All AISD schools have full access to COA recycling services. Large governmental and private commercial and residential users are required to recycle, whether through the COA or a private vendor. Central Texas has a long-term plan for sustainable waste management that is fully supported by all governmental entities within the plan area.

17. Programs developed with the support of business, civic, and political players to coordinate and encourage participation in all those sectors.

18. Incentives for composting. Support for business that provide an economical means for businesses to compost.

19. Again, Seattle/King County Solid Waste programs. Why completely recreate from the ground up if a successful program exists from which to model.

20. Mandate compostable collection bins at every house and business

21. 100% compliance. Fines for not complying are more than just ignoring the Zero Waste Initiative.

22. A certain requirement for lowest waste possible and an incentive for zero waste

23. Less paper, less staff, less admin expense

24. Having potential programs in place that will encourage/make it simpler to work for zero waste.
25. There would be no waste of these materials and there would be local jobs created.

26. Publish findings of study. Policy to be introduced at the appropriate level - local, state or federal.

27. Businesses springing up around a former landfill.

28. Actual ideas - not just meaning vague statements will be generated

29. We're reusing/recycling more and growing local businesses at the same time.

30. It is less expensive for a builder to recycle some site materials than to throw everything out during demolition. In addition, there should be some way to use styrofoam in recycled building materials.

31. Commerce growth in green industry in our region.

32. A sprawling recovery and reuse industry that will create over 10,000 new jobs in a local economy.

33. This will enable personal and collective growth in the human condition. Promotion of responsibility enables growth. Comprehension of cause/effect relationships beyond immediate gratification is basic to development; and indeed national security.

34. Potential for economic development is great.

35. The City and other area local governments will implement procurement policies to favor products made from the materials that they generate or collect. For example, Austin Energy would fund placing loose-fill cellulose insulation made from city-collected old newspapers in low-income homes. Similarly, Austin's Street & Bridge Department would specify recycled concrete aggregate and curbside-collected glass cullet in road base. In addition, the city would spec crumb rubber in chip seals and recycled asphalt shingles in hot mix.

36. Growth of new businesses, strengthening existing ones, and more re-use of waste materials.

37. Plan able to be implemented

Task 8.
Incorporate the United States Green Building Council's Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design for all proposed facilities by Council Resolutions. Is anything missing from the list of tasks?

1. Incentivize this for hospitals, schools, private and corporate buildings.

2. Include City of Austin green building standards - less complex for compliance, so better chances of being widely adopted.

3. Make this mandatory. Do not let developers negotiate out of compliance.

4. Incorporate gray water reuse and A/C condensation recapture. In addition, incentives or grant support that will encourage LEED construction in business and non-profit structures

5. Yes, what level? And how does this relate to our own Green Building Program? I believe that this is more progressive and tailored to our region. I would vote for best of both worlds.

6. Common sense is missing.

7. LEED is a good start, but they must be energy efficient - some of the less stringent levels of LEED exchange one value for the other.

8. Not sure what all's covered in that: presumably there are incentives for participating, so does that offset the need for fines for not participating?

9. Especially the new Sustainable Site Guidelines coming forward now - major work being done by LBJ Wildflower Center -be among 1st US cities to make big, bold, vocal commitment to SSI - NOW!

10. This is not really sustainable. Many projects are just too small and have no economy of scale to offset costs of this goal. Many departments have no money to implement this goal on this scale.

11. Also consider National Green Building Standards, esp for single and multi-family homes

Task 8. If these tasks are accomplished what does success look like to you?

1. Healthy buildings.

2. Council resolution, plus nearby Counties and other municipalities to create a regional consensus

3. Zero Waste

4. Energy efficient buildings with minimal environmental footprint.

5. All new facilities comply with Green Building standards.

6. All new facilities in the COA are built to LEED standards.

7. All residents pitching in with an effort to reduce waste, dispose properly, live cleaner and enjoy greater awareness of the green environment.

8. LEED is awesome. However it is by no means the blueprint nor substitute for options and access to options to effectively get the job done in an environmentally and human health orientated manner of responsibility.

9. More new buildings are LEED certified and at a higher level (gold instead of silver, etc.).

10. If you want to contact me - I'm DickPierceDesigns@gmail.com - private citizen, Permaculture Designer, Landscape Designer, Zero Waste zealot. Thanks for doing this. It is important, vital work -please be sure it is in concert with solid waste, garden, farm, and environmental folks and groups - it's an awesome opportunity - one we can ride to glory or crash as individuals

11. Projects which can afford LEED certification are involved. Small projects are not.

12. All facilities striving to achieve LEED certification.

PUBLIC INPUT: EMAILS AND LETTERS

From: Liz Cunningham [mailto:LCunningham@balconesresources.com]
Sent: Wednesday, August 19, 2009 5:10 PM
To: King, Jessica
Subject: RE: Solid Waste Master Plan Input and Thanks!

Jessica,

Thank you so much for your patience with our Commission last night and the clear, direct, brief J presentation. My thoughts are as follows:

1. There is an immediate need for SWC to conduct a feasibility analysis of biomass waste within their control and also encourage the creation of public private dialogue to work with C&D waste managers in the region – and to feed this information to AE as they assess the feasibility of 50 MW of biomass generation within AE service territory;
2. I encourage SWC to work with the Austin Energy's strategic and generation planning group (Karl Rabago and John Baker (Staff: Mark Kapner and Larry Alford) to begin to work as a City to understand the energy resource of CoA waste. In addition, expand your current relationships within the Climate Protection Planning Group – to include Jennifer Clymer (Jennifer.clymer@austinenergy.com 322-6188, as she has studied Energy recovery from waste for AE)(July 3, 2007 Memo to Oscar Backus re: Environmental benefits of Waste-to-Energy plants -- which needs to be updated).
3. We fully support SWC's looking to private companies to provide the single stream service and recognize it is in line with developing city policy (Roger Duncan) to favor doing business with locally owned entities…Sustainable economies require this.

Thank you again for your passion for your job, and your professionalism.

Best regards,
Liz Cunningham

To Whom It May Concern:

As community stakeholders, we thank you for your department's willingness to engage in a public forum concerning Austin's Integrated Solid Waste Management Plan. Embracing an authentic Zero Waste model; as much of the EU, Canada, and other progressive states at home have done is no simple task. However, we are confident that, with continued public participation both in understanding our city's treatment of its waste stream as a resource, and in actively engaging with the city employees to constructively carry out this broad-ranging program, our community will be a sustainable place to call home.

Here are some following issues active members of Austin's environmental community see as needing pointedly addressed in the ISWMMP. Again, we thank you for your attention to these items.

Existing NE Landfills: Official documentation of "key components" to the Master Plan reads, "Inventory of existing SW management systems in the region...inventory of facilities needs/assessment."

Though the existence, let alone the expansion of, landfills stands directly opposed to a Zero Waste concept, they are now operable for 30 + more years; but will be "active" in the midst of a highly-traveled desired development zone for generations. With our projected growth rate to consider, along with the citizens who already live and work near these sites - what steps will the city of Austin take to "inventory and assess" these facilities that fall under your purview? Just because we are moving forward under the auspices of Zero Waste, does not mean we forget our past. In fact, to do so will mitigate any potential positive outcome of a ZW strategy. These landfills spew methane, create poor air quality, attract rodents and buzzards, the list goes on...

Chief among the tasks of an ISWMMP should be to assess the impact these municipal facilities have on our watersheds and water quality through testing surrounding tributaries and the Colorado. Only then will the city be able to garner the state and federal support needed to address these infrastructures properly.

Another issue that should be addressed is the impact to receiving waste from over 30 counties to Travis County. We feel the Master Plan should determine how to stop the importation of waste into our region. All the work in this plan will be a waste of time and money if we take our neighbors waste who see their waste disappear. Only by stopping importation of trash will communities outside our county deal with Zero Waste. Not wanting a landfill drives Zero Waste.

The Creation of a Large-Scale Composting Site: One way to maximize the life of our existing landfills and move forward with an ISWMMP simultaneously would be to secure an appropriately buffered site for citywide compost deposit through enlisting the expertise of a consulting firm specializing in such operations. This way,

we are educated by experts on how to best to operate a city-wide composting operation in the future – which is what a Zero Waste will require. Perhaps this site could/should be located (and included in the building plans) of the local MRF that we so obviously need. Let's look to our existing resources (i.e. Gary Liss Consultants) to help us move in this direction in a way that will be beneficial to water retention in public green spaces, healthy compost for our farmers, and citizen gardens. If Toronto's greater metropolitan of nearly 6M can institute large-scale composting, surely we can too!

Appropriate Buffer-Zones: We are realizing their importance to the health of the surrounding community. We are also well-aware of Austin's shameful legacy of environmental racism. Again, the ISWMMP delivers another opportunity for us to DO THIS BETTER. Appropriate buffer zones are not only responsible and necessary – they can also provide biodiversity, habitat, and beauty.

Waste-to-Energy: This issue is at the fore of "new energy technologies" and is couched in the greenest terms. However, official documentation from the city of Austin states that in our goal of " a 90% reduction in per capita solid waste disposal in landfills AND incinerators by 2040." We know that waste flows like water – through channels. Incineration is short-sighted and an environmental (and ultimately financial) nightmare. Peter Montague, Ph.D. & Director of the Environmental Research Foundation (a great resource) has this to say on "waste-to-energy" practices: ** Incinerators require a 20-year commitment to providing a steady stream of trash, and the modern world seems poised to produce less trash. Communities that commit to incineration are locked out of a modern approach to environmental protection based on waste reduction, waste avoidance and pollution prevention."

There is now technology to capture renewable energy from organic materials. Dry fermentation and gasification are examples of using the waste stream to create energy with the end product being compost.

With thanks,

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NorthEast Neighbors Coalition, Executive Member
Long Range Solid Waste Task Force, member
Austin Zero Waste Alliance, member
Capital Area Council of Governments General Assembly, Citizen member

&

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